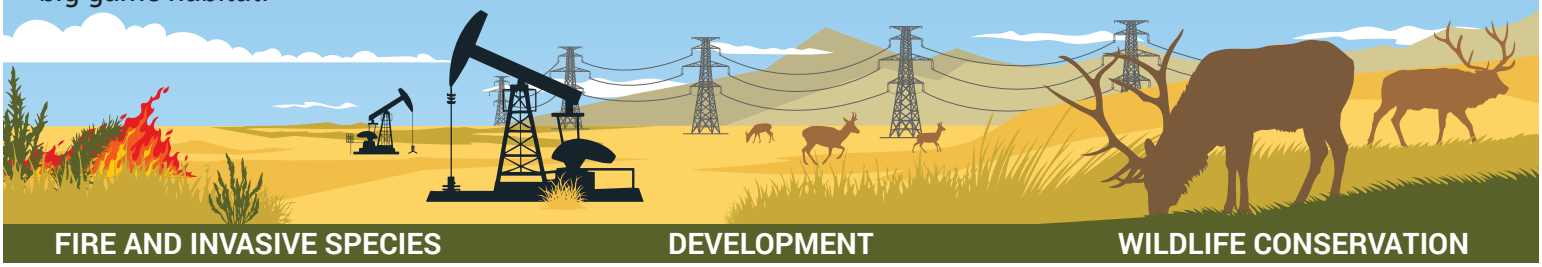
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors

Issued in 2018, Secretarial Order 3362 emphasizes the importance of conserving and enhancing elk, mule deer, and pronghorn habitat and migration corridors. The BLM works cooperatively with states and other entities to ensure multiple use and sustained yield of the public lands, and this includes maintaining and enhancing big game habitat.



FIRE AND INVASIVE SPECIES | DEVELOPMENT | WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Fiscal Year 2025 Accomplishments

681,951 total acres of habitat improved by:

- Mechanical treatment
- Prescribed fire
- Seeding or planting
- Weed removal

More than 4.2 million acres improved since 2019

287 total miles of fencing improved via:

- Removal
- Installation
- Modification

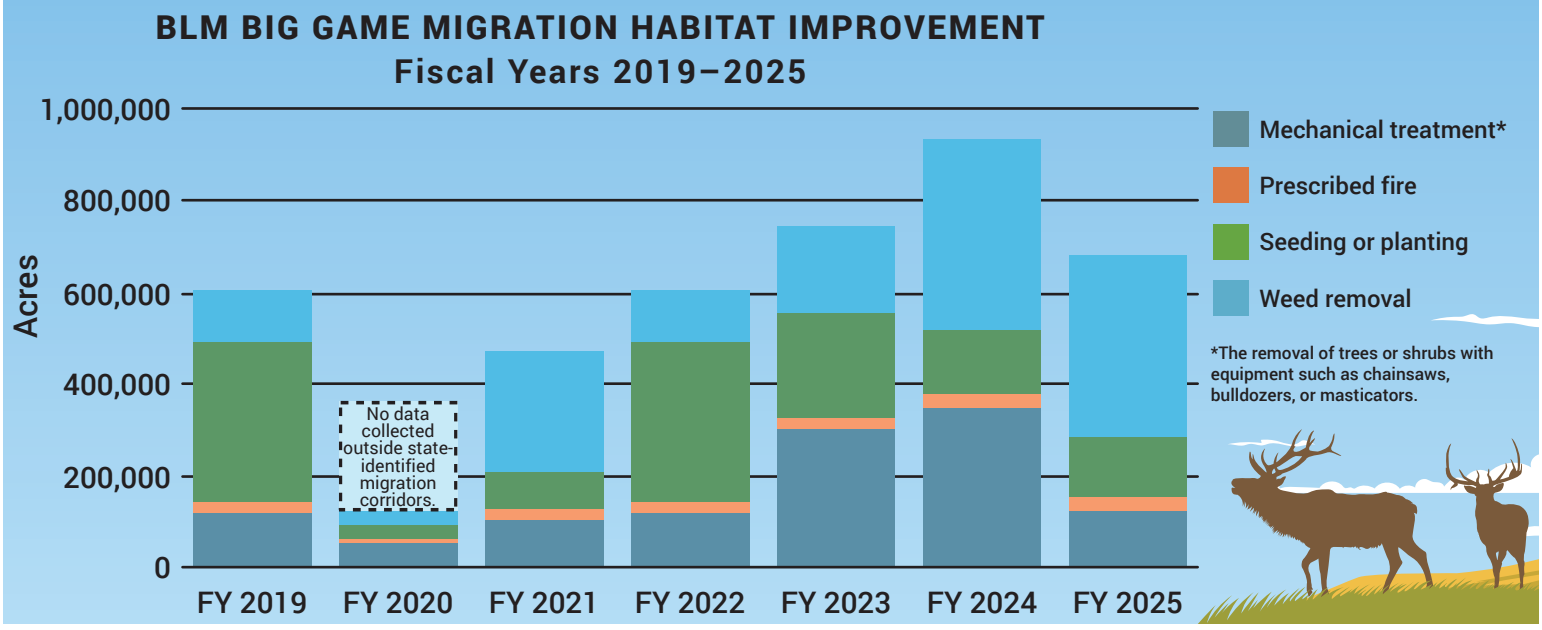
More than 2,000 miles improved since 2019

Water resources:

- 717 wildlife water developments

More than 2,500 water developments improved since 2019

Enhancing Big Game Habitat



The BLM and State Fish and Wildlife Agencies In Action

The BLM works closely with state fish and wildlife agencies to accomplish projects benefitting big game habitat and migration corridors. In FY 2025, the BLM partnered with the 11 western state wildlife agencies to:

- Complete 120 individual projects, improving more than 250,000 acres of big game habitat across the West.
- Remove or modify almost 100 miles of fencing to improve big game migration.
- Install or maintain almost 90 water developments that benefit big game and other wildlife.

Secretarial Order 3362 inspired new research into big game migration. Since its inception, the BLM has funded or been involved with more than 75 research projects focusing on big game migration.

Other Conservation Partners

FY 2025 Accomplishments

The BLM also works closely with multiple conservation organizations to improve big game habitat on BLM-managed lands. In FY 2025:

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers coordinated the efforts of 250 volunteers who contributed more than 3,000 hours of work to:

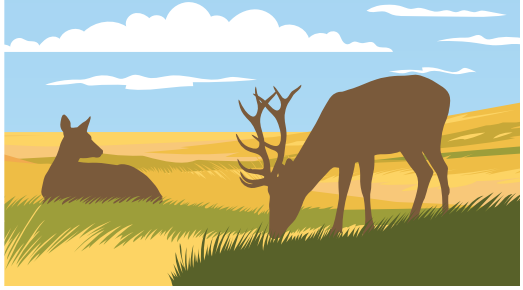
- Inventory > 138 miles of fencing
- Remove > 20 miles of fencing
- Convert > 6 miles of barbed wire into wildlife-friendly fencing

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation continued to coordinate migration projects on BLM-managed lands across the West. Example projects include:

- Invasive weed treatments to improve habitat conditions for big game
- Grassland restoration to increase big game forage

The Mule Deer Foundation completed habitat enhancement projects to improve conditions for big game migration. Projects resulted in:

- 5,085 acres treated for noxious weeds
- 910 acres planted in sagebrush
- 190 acres mechanically thinned



A new cooperative agreement with the Foundation for America's Public Lands was initiated and funded with $600,000 specifically for use in big game migration corridors. Projects will begin hitting the ground in FY 2026.

BLM/HQ/GI-26/004+6515

March 2026